AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling instances of access to transmission resources of a communications network for transferring information items, comprising:

checking an event of an instance of access to the communications network to determine if the amount of transmission resources required for the information transfer is currently available in the communications network;

determining the priority of the instance of access upon ascertaining an amount of currently available transmission resources within the network insufficient for the information transfer; and

allocating the transmission resources required for the information transfer made in the communications network in the event of a high priority of the instance of access by freeing or terminating low priority existing transmission resources.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission resources made available are allocated for the information transfer.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

determining at least one of the priority of the instance of access is using destination information items transferred in the course of the current instance of access, and of information items transferred in the course of the current instance of access and representing the type of information items to be transferred, and

the priority of the allocated transmission resources by the type of information items transferred.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein instances of access to the communications network for transferring information items with destination information

items identifying an emergency call center have a high priority, the information items to be transferred to the emergency call center being assigned a high priority.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising allocating the transmission resources required for the information transfer made such that corresponding transmission resources assigned at least to one instance of access, having a low priority, for the information transfer are released or made available, or corresponding transmission resources allocated for the transfer of information items assigned a low priority are released or made available.

6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the required transmission resources are determined and made available randomly.

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission resources made available are allocated to the instances of access, having a high priority, for the information transfer, the allocated transmission resources being assigned a high priority.

8. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission resources are arranged between switching devices arranged in the communications network and/or between a switching device of the communications network and at least one front-end device arranged in the subscriber access area of the switching device.

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein

when the transmission resources required for the information transfer are available, an identifier is formed for the corresponding front-end device between the at least one switching device and the at least one assigned front-end device and stored in the corresponding switching device, and

in the case of the identifier stored for the at least one front-end device, a reduced amount of the transmission resources arranged between the at least one switching device and the at least one front-end device is used or allocated for the transmission of information items having a low priority.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the identifier set for the at least one front-end device is reset or erased upon expiration of a prescribed time interval in which the reduced amount of transmission resources for the transfer of information items having a low priority is not exceeded.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission resources are implemented by a prescribed number of trunks or by a prescribed number of time-division-multiplex-oriented transmission channels.

12. (Currently amended) A communications system for controlling instances of access to transmission resources of a communications network, comprising:

at least one switching device arranged in the communications network;

transmission resources assigned to the at least one switching device and allocated for transmitting information items; and

a device provided in the event of an instance of access to the transmission resources to check the current availability of the transmission resources required for the information transfer, wherein

a determining device, to determine the priority of the instance of access upon ascertaining an amount of currently available transmission resources within the network insufficient for the information transfer, are arranged in the at least one switching device, and

the event of a determined high priority of the instance of access are provided in the at least one switching device and the transmission resources required for the information transfer are made available by freeing or terminating low priority existing transmission resources.

13. (Previously presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the device for rendering available the required transmission resources is configured such that the transmission resources made available are allocated to the instance of access for the information transfer.

14. (Previously presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the allocatable transmission resources assigned to the at least one switching device are arranged between at least one of the at least one switching device and at least one further switching device, and
are arranged between the at least one switching device and at least one front-end device arranged in the subscriber access area of the switching device.

15. (Previously presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the determining device to determine the priority of the instance of access are configured such that the priority is determined with at least one of destination information items transferred in the course of the current instance of access, and with information items transferred in the course of the current instance of access and representing the type of the information items to be transferred, the priority of the allocated transmission resources being determined during the information transfer by the type of transferred information items.

16. (Previously presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the device to render available the required transmission resources are configured such that at least one corresponding transmission resources assigned at least to one instance of access, having a low priority, for the information transfer are released or made available, or corresponding transmission resources allocated for the transfer of information items assigned a low priority are released or made available.

17. (Previously presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the transmission resources assigned to the switching device are implemented by trunks outgoing

from the at least one switching device, or by outgoing, time-division-multiplex-oriented transmission channels.